

Amendment to the Specification:

Replace the paragraph beginning on line 15, page 23,  
as follows:

--In FIG. 17, the delay buffers 1702 are inserted  
between the clock sub-net buffer 1602 and the flip-flop 1406  
~~1404~~ to provide the clock skew needed to meet the timing  
constraints of the critical path 1408. The shortened clock  
period between the flip-flops 1404 and 1406 is then applied to  
the non-critical path 1410 to maintain substantially zero  
clock skew at the flip-flops 1402 and 1406.--